

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 2, 3 and 6-8, leaves claims 4 and 5 unchanged and cancels claims 1, 9 and 10. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2-8.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to the drawings, particularly Fig. 2, as not containing a legend "Prior Art". Filed on even date herewith are Proposed Drawing Corrections so as to add the legend "Prior Art" to Fig. 2. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The specification stands objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Amendments were made to the specification to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Additional amendments were made to the specification, particularly the Abstract, so as to correct minor errors and to bring the specification into conformity with U.S. practice. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 8 of the Office Action that claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Amendments were made to claims 2-8 to place them in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2-8 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kozaki '770 (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,770); claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as

being unpatentable over Kozaki '770 and Yoshikawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,532,234); and claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kozaki '770, Yoshikawa and Kozaki '676 (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,676). As indicated above, claims 1, 9 and 10 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections are rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1, 9 and 10 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 1, 9 and 10 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. The cancellation of claims 1, 9 and 10 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the invention as set forth in claims 1, 9 and 10 in a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 2-8 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.39391X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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